

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A fluorescent lamp comprising:

a bulb provided with a pair of electrode coils at both ends thereof, each of the electrode coils mounted between two lead wires held by a bulb-end glass,

a means for preventing overheating provided with a glass member and a first and a second metallic pin for supporting the glass member, the first and the second metallic pin being provided not in contact with each other,

wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the means for preventing overheating of the bulb-end glass is mounted between the lead wires located between the electrode coil and the bulb-end glass with one end of each of the first and the second metallic pin connected to the lead wires, respectively, the other end of one of the first and the second metallic pin is projected from the glass member or positioned therein, and the other metallic pin is wound around the glass member with the other end positioned in the glass member so as to be spaced apart from the other metallic pin via the glass member, the other metallic pin extending through a substantially annular portion of the wound metallic pin,

the means for preventing overheating melting and retaining its molten state to connect the lead wires electrically just before or after the electrode coil is disconnected.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the glass member has a depression formed on a circumferential surface thereof, and the metallic pin is wound around the depression.

8. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein a metallic band is wound around the glass member.

9. (Original) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 8, wherein the other end of the metallic pin is connected to the metallic band.

10. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein a metallic band is wound around at least both ends of the glass member, and the other end of each of the first and the second metallic pin is connected to the metallic band, respectively.

11. (Previously Presented) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 8, wherein the metallic band is in the form of a net.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The fluorescent lamp according to claim 2, wherein the means for preventing overheating further includes a metallic container in which the glass member is housed,~~ A fluorescent lamp comprising:

a bulb provided with a pair of electrode coils at both ends thereof, each of the electrode coils mounted between two lead wires held by a bulb-end glass,

a means for preventing overheating provided with a glass member, a first and a second metallic pin for supporting the glass member, and a container configured to house the glass member,

wherein one end of each of the first and the second metallic pin is connected to the lead wires, respectively, and the first and the second metallic pin are provided not in contact with each other,

the means for preventing overheating of the bulb-end glass is mounted between the lead wires located between the electrode coil and the bulb-end glass,

at least one of the first and the second metallic pin supports the glass member indirectly by supporting the ~~metallic~~ container, and

the glass member is housed in the ~~metallic~~ container so that a portion of the glass member is exposed to a discharge space, and

the means for preventing overheating melting and retaining its molten state to connect the lead wires electrically just before or after the electrode coil is disconnected.

14. (Original) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 13, wherein the portion of the glass member exposed to the discharge space faces to the electrode coil.

15. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 13, wherein one of the metallic pins is inserted into the glass member, and the other is connected to the ~~metallie~~ container.

16. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 15, wherein one of the metallic pins, which has been inserted into the glass member, has a fastener, the fastener comes into contact with an end surface of the glass member, and a length of the glass member is longer than a depth of the ~~metallie~~ container in an insertion direction of the metallic pin.

17. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 13, wherein an end of an opening of the ~~metallie~~ container is bent inward.

18. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 13, wherein the ~~metallie~~ container is held by the first and the second metallic pin via an electrical insulator, and both metallic pins are provided in close proximity in the glass member.

19. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein a surface of the glass member is coated with a non-conductive inorganic heat-resisting material.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The fluorescent lamp according to claim 19, wherein~~ A fluorescent lamp comprising:

a bulb provided with a pair of electrode coils at both ends thereof, each of the electrode coils mounted between two lead wires held by a bulb-end glass,

a means for preventing overheating provided with a glass member, and a first and a second metallic pin for supporting the glass member,

wherein one end of each of the first and the second metallic pin is connected to the lead wires, respectively, and the first and the second metallic pin are provided not in contact with each other,

the means for preventing overheating of the bulb-end glass is mounted between the lead wires located between the electrode coil and the bulb-end glass,

the first and the second metallic pin are inserted into the glass member, and a distance between the metallic pins is substantially equal to or shorter than an insertion length of the metallic pin into the glass member,

a surface of the glass member is coated with a non-conductive inorganic heat-resisting material, and

the means for preventing overheating melting and retaining its molten state to connect the lead wires electrically just before or after the electrode coil is disconnected.

21. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to ~~claim 19~~ claim 20, wherein the first and the second metallic pin are inserted into the glass member, and a point of the metallic pin in the glass member differs from a portion that continues on to the point in cross section, or has a thickness larger than that of the portion that continues on to the point.

22. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to ~~claim 19~~ claim 20, wherein the inorganic heat-resisting material has a melting point in excess of 200 °C or more above a softening point of the glass member.

23. (Currently Amended) The fluorescent lamp according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein a substance having a lower work function is attached to a surface of the metallic pin.

24. (Original) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein the means for preventing overheating includes a glass member mounted between the lead wires and a means for preventing falling of the glass member from the lead wires during melting.

25. (Original) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 24, wherein the means for preventing falling is provided on a circumference of the glass member.

26. (Original) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 24, wherein the means for preventing falling is formed of a non-conductive inorganic heat-resisting material or a metallic band.

27. (Original) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein the means for preventing overheating includes a glass member, and an electrical volume resistance of the glass member is lower than that of the bulb-end glass.

28. (Original) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein the means for preventing overheating includes a glass member, and an electrical conduction between the lead wires through the glass member is continued just before or after the electrode coil is disconnected.

29. (Original) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of a surface of the bulb-end glass in the lamp is coated with a non-conductive inorganic heat-resisting material.

30. (Original) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 1, wherein the means for preventing overheating is located closer to the electrode coil than to the bulb-end glass.

31-33 (Canceled)

34. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 13, wherein a surface of the glass member is coated with a non-conductive inorganic heat-resisting material.

35. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 13, wherein a substance having a lower work function is attached to a surface of the metallic pin.

36. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 13, wherein the means for preventing overheating includes a glass member mounted between the lead wires and a means for preventing falling of the glass member from the lead wires during melting.

37. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 20, wherein a substance having a lower work function is attached to a surface of the metallic pin.

38. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 20, wherein the means for preventing overheating includes a glass member mounted between the lead wires and a means for preventing falling of the glass member from the lead wires during melting.
39. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 38, wherein the means for preventing falling is provided on a circumference of the glass member.
40. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 38, wherein the means for preventing falling is formed of a non-conductive inorganic heat-resisting material or a metallic band.
41. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 20, wherein the means for preventing overheating includes a glass member, and an electrical volume resistance of the glass member is lower than that of the bulb-end glass.
42. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 20, wherein the means for preventing overheating includes a glass member, and an electrical conduction between the lead wires through the glass member is continued just before or after the electrode coil is disconnected.
43. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 20, wherein at least a portion of a surface of the bulb-end glass in the lamp is coated with a non-conductive inorganic heat-resisting material.
44. (New) The fluorescent lamp according to claim 20, wherein the means for preventing overheating is located closer to the electrode coil than to the bulb-end glass.